We are:

Increasing reading and literacy, improving digital access and literacy, supporting everyone to achieve their full potential, supporting everyone to live healthier and happier lives, enabling greater prosperity, building stronger more resilient communities, offering everyone access to culture and the opportunity to be creative.

Kirklees Libraries.
Ambitions for Kirklees Libraries 2017 - 2021


These ambitions build on our existing offer and will guide service development over the next 5 years.

Our ambitions are underpinned by:

Council Priorities
We focus our targeted work in areas of deprivation and on hard to reach groups across Kirklees
We look for opportunities to support the development of local businesses and help fight worklessness

Universal Offers
We support the Universal Offers, the Society of Chief Librarians’ commitment to quality provision across core areas of library services

Six Steps
We are signed up to the Six Steps Promise which sets out the experience that people with sight loss and other print disabilities should have through public library services

Children’s Promise
We are committed to the Children’s Promise which guarantees that every child and young person visiting a public library is inspired by an exciting, accessible environment which makes reading for pleasure irresistible.

We endeavour to meet the ambitions of the Libraries Taskforce to deliver a model service

Kirklees Libraries Equality and Diversity Action Plan
We are:
Increasing reading, literacy and early language development.

We offer a range of accessible books and reading materials reflecting the needs of the local community.
- Our collections reflect and meet the needs of the local community
- We buy materials that our communities want and need, and we use our limited resources efficiently
- Our collections are well promoted and well used
- We make best use of our decommissioned stock to support the running of our service
- We use data to support and evidence our stock management decisions
- Individual libraries take on the day-to-day management of their own collections

We have a workforce of well trained staff and volunteers who actively engage library users
- Our workforce model excellent customer service
- Reader development is embedded in our service

We have a range of activities designed to get and keep people of all ages reading
- We deliver a Kirklees-wide programme of engaging and inclusive storytimes and rhymetimes, focussing on early language development
- We look for opportunities to bring quality authors and illustrators to Kirklees
- We subscribe to and implement a range of children’s and adult’s reading initiatives
- We support and engage with reading groups

We support improved literacy, early language development and attainment for all ages
- We work with local schools and early years settings to support the curriculum and promote use of the library and reading for pleasure
- We nurture reading for pleasure and promote reading as part of everyday life
- We support adults to learn to read
We are:
Improving digital access and literacy.

We offer free access to the internet
- All members of the local community can manage their own IT access
- Our hardware, software and network is fit for purpose

We support people to improve their digital skills
- We provide access to online learning
- We facilitate support for those learners that need it
- We encourage people to take up opportunities to keep up to date with new technology

We work to increase usage of digital services
- Our knowledgeable workforce actively promote our e-resources
- We support the local community to engage with the council's digital by default agenda

We help people to be safe online
- Our workforce are trained in online safety best practice
- We raise awareness of online safety issues
We are:
Supporting everyone to achieve their full potential.

We offer people opportunities to volunteer, improve skills, gain experience, and become work ready
- We offer quality, mutually beneficial work placement opportunities
- We offer a range of volunteering opportunities to suit the needs of our service and the local community
- We create opportunities to combat loneliness

We signpost to opportunities to learn in the local community
- Our knowledgeable workforce are confident at signposting to learning opportunities

We supplement local community learning opportunities to better meet the changing needs of the local community
- We work with learning partners to best meet the needs of the local community
- We look for funding opportunities to meet the needs of the local community

We offer free access to learning resources
- Our learning resources reflect and meet the needs of the local community

We provide opportunities for people to come together and share skills
- We are a safe, neutral space where groups can meet
- We encourage and enable skilled volunteers to share and inspire
- We encourage our volunteers and Friends of Library groups to share best practice

We have a well trained workforce
- We have an effective process in place to ensure our workforce are fully trained
We are:
Supporting everyone to live healthier and happier lives.

We provide opportunities for people to come together and be less isolated
- We empower the community to develop their local service offer
- We bring together and work with isolated groups with particular needs

We provide information, helping people to understand and better manage their health conditions
- Our health resources reflect and meet the needs of the local community
- We resource and promote new health initiatives
- Our knowledgeable workforce is confident at signposting to reliable and appropriate health information
- We assist health organisations to effectively reach the local community

We reach out to individuals who cannot easily access our services
- Our Home Service is a lifeline to people who are isolated in their own homes
- We strive for our service to be as inclusive and accessible as possible

We promote the use of literature to improve wellbeing
- We promote bibliotherapy opportunities
- We resource and promote reading initiatives linked to wellbeing
We are:
Enabling greater prosperity.

We provide information to help people start businesses and create jobs
- We provide and promote a range of resources to support start-up businesses
- Our workforce can signpost people with business enquiries

We offer people opportunities to volunteer, improve skills, gain experience, and become work ready
- We create a range of high quality work placements for young people
- Experience gained through our volunteering programme enables people to gain employment

We support people to find work and develop their career
- Our strong relationships with local employment and skills partners help us to best meet the needs of the local community
- We facilitate support for those looking for work

We provide low cost or free space for people to work and meet
- We have a variety of affordable and cost effective meeting spaces
- We offer multi-purpose, flexible space for use by the local community
We are:
Building stronger, more resilient communities.

Our locations are safe, neutral, inclusive, accessible spaces
• Our libraries are easy to find and navigate
• We have a strong marketing strategy to ensure local community awareness of all our services
• We continue to invest resources in removing potential barriers to use

We provide local studies information and access to cultural heritage
• Our knowledgeable workforce can support and signpost people with local studies enquiries
• We support communities to discover their local heritage
• We use technology to improve our customer experience

We empower the local community to take an active role in the development of their local services
• Our Friends of Library groups take an active role in the development of our service
• Library volunteers provide essential support and extra services to better meet the needs of the local community
• We empower Friends of Library groups to develop their own skills

We work to combat disadvantage
• We focus our resources on those who most need them
• We work to engage hard to reach groups
• We work to overcome inequality of opportunity
• We utilise books and reading to help increase empathy, respect and self-esteem amongst young people
We are:
Offering everyone access to culture and the opportunity to be creative.

We provide opportunities to participate in, and access, culture, regardless of background
- We provide a range of high quality cultural and creative experiences
- Our engagement activities reflect and meet the needs of the local community
- We commission quality local artists to increase the range of creative and cultural opportunities available

We support cultural initiatives
- We support local groups to develop their own creative and cultural calendar
- We work with cultural organisations to increase participation across our communities
- We look for opportunities to bring exciting, high quality cultural experiences to our communities

We empower communities to shape the cultural offer in their local area
- Our Friends of Library groups take an active role in the development of their local cultural offer
- Library volunteers provide essential support and extra services to better meet the needs of the local community